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BOARD DISMISSES

PRIDDY CHARGES

PRIDDY CHARGES

Continued from First 1982.

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Payment to Dr. Quick.

Seventh, Dr. Barringer employed Dr.
W. J. Quick to perform certain work for the United States Experiment Station at the college; the agreement as to compensation was vague and uncertain. The result was that a controversy aroae, and under threat of suit the college paid Dr. Quick 569, As a matter of fact, Dr. Quick should As a matter of fact,

complaints and quarrels and threat. I can be of much service. Those girls ened lawsuits brought about by miswho come here in this way are either takes of administration. This has not as well chaperoned as they themselves.

To the Honorable Board of Visitors of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.:

Gentlemen,—At the close of the reimportant Institutional matters.

suit the college paid Dr. Quick \$600, As a matter of fact, Dr. Quick \$600, As a matter of fact, Dr. Quick should and would have been paid out of the United States government funds if his claim had been audited and presented in time. The loss of this \$600 was due to the failure to observe ordinary business rules.

Eighth. On the recommendation of the president, a certain professor was dismissed from the institution without any opportunity for defense, tupon subsequent investigation, with full information, the board was compelled to reinstate the said professor, thus showing that in recommending his discharge the president had no acturate knowledge of the situation and that he had acted with such haste as to cast suspicion upon his judgment.

Ninth. The meetings of the board of visitors have been largely devoted to the consideration of softlements of complaints and quarrels and threatiened lawsuits brought about by mis-

takes of administration. This has not as well chaperoned as they themselves only resulted in financial loss, but has or their mothers desire, or else desir

ous of better protection, they find it impossible of attainment because of jo-cal prejudice which exists here against girls that dance, and a consequent refusal on the part of many to have retusal on the part of many to have them into private homes." Again he says: "I can but feel that if you, gen-tlemen, really think it unsafe for these girls at the hotels, you should take the matter up with some of those adamantine sisters in this community. adamantine sisters in this community, who shut their doors in real or pretended horror on these girls, and see to it that they open up both their conscience and their homes." In speaking of literary societies, he says: "The poet, the orator, the literary society and the last year's birds nest are all gone, and although we charm ever so wisely we cannot bring them back."

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Eighteenth. We regret the condi-tions which make this action on our part necessary; it has been a painful duty. We recognize the fact that the man who is at the head of a great educational institution cannot be omno-present or omniscient, but he must be held responsible for the organization sixteenth. There is published at the institution a periodical called "The Tech," which is highly inflammatory in its character, which in particular is abusive of the law officers of the town of Blacksburg. On the occasion of the arresting of the coach, which has just been referred to, this publication came out and threatened the burning of the property of the Mayor of Blacksburg who had imposed the burning of the property of the Mayor of Blacksburg who had imposed the fine. Under college regulations this publication is censored, and it seems that to permit a publication of this character to continue its offensive criticisms upon the administration of law is destructive of discipline and should not be permitted.

Seventeenth. The president in his letter of June 23, 1999, invited charges and investigations. The welfare committee of the Alumni Association responded to this challenge and formulated written charges. The president's reply was in many instances evasive, harsh and undignified, and made upon us an unfavorable impression. We believe that while the welfare committee may have confused charges of greater moment with charges of lesser.

DAD DINCER **C WORK** the Virginia Polyteched in Color of the recett heaving at Michaelmer, W. The Color of the recett heaving at Michaelmer, W. The Color of the recett heaving at Michaelmer, W. The Color of the retest heaving at Michaelmer, W. The Color of the Color of the order of the Color of the Colo

and established precedents. As each member of the board was thoroughly familiar with both the charges and the answer, together with much of the evidence which had already been before them, it was felt that counsel could not materially aid the board in reaching a correct conclusion; counsel for each side were invited, however, to be present during the investigation, and were allowed to sit and confer with their clients.

and confer with their clients.

Ex Parte Evidence Excinded.

A request from Mr. Priddy's committee to be permitted to read ex parte affidavits in support of their charges was, of course, refused. It seemed to the board that to have decided other-wise would have been against every wise would have been against every principle of right and justice. The affidavits in question, it was admitted, had never ocen seen by Dr. Barringer; he not only was ignorant of their nature and contents, and, therefore, could not present counter-affidavits, but he had no notice whatever as to who made them, or when or where they were made, or what they were about. Under such circumstances, it was not only impossible for Dr. Barringer to have asked the affiant a single question, for he had not been pergle question, for he had not been pe mitted to even look at him. In this respect, the board would have labored under the same disadvantage with Dr. Baringer, had the affidavits been admitted. Where the appearance, demeanor, memory and candor of a witness so largely determine the weight to be given his evidence, the affidavits, whatever service they may have done Mr. Priddy and his committee, would have been of slight service to the board; but above all other considerations their admission and possible subsequent publication in the newspapers would have been an outrage upon Dr. Barringer, and a great injustice to the institute.

The board has expressed itself at mitted to even look at him.

sumed by each of them voluntarily. It cannot lawfully be shared with others, and in order to accomplish the best results, it ought not to be so shared, and when members of a committee of alumni ask to be allowed to sit with the board of visitors, to aid in their deliberations and shape their decisions, as was done at the meeting in June, there is evidence of a confusion of proper ideas, of lack of knowledge of proper procedure, and lack of conof proper procedure, and lack of con-fidence in the board, together with a

seeming desire to usurp delegated au-thority, all of which spell disorder. An educational institution is fortun-ate when it has a body of loyal alumni, zealous of its weifare, alert to come to its support and to defend it in time of emergency, and eager to aid in any policy of construction or advancement. But the prerogatives of the board of visitors and the fealty of an alumnus should never be confused with each other. In the beginning of their paother. In the beginning of their pa-per containing the charges, the wel-fare committee present the apology that an alumnus is capable of arriving at a fair estimate of that which helps or hinders an institution, because by or inders an institution, declare by his residence as a student, he has gained an acquaintance with it of a character which can be obtained by no other person, except by a similar residence. If this argument is sound best qualified body to dictate the government of the institute.

Board Is Responsible.
As long, however, as the law im-



will be afforded to Individuals with a grievance, rumors will come to have the value of facts, trivial details will be exaggerated into matters of vital importance, differences of opiniin with subordinate employes will be magnified into inexcusable blunders of administration, while diverging views as to the curriculum will grow into

ranted.

In some of them inaccuracy is apparent. In others ordinary investigation would have discovered the truth. Some of them were finally withdrawn; others are mere differences of opinion; many of them are trivial, and to a large extent they were based upon statements of persong who had formerly been connected with the V. P. I., but who had been discharged.

While aimed avowedly at the president only, the published charges at tack the moral character of the stu-

tack the moral character of the students, the efficiency of the college and the good faith, if not the intelligence, of the board of visitors.

or the board of visitors.

It is impracticable and needless to comment upon the specifications in detail, but the charges themselves will be reviewed, except such as had already been fully investigated by the board, and conclusions reached from whick the board sees no reason to recede.

I. Involving a question of accuracy r veracity, or both. Nothing has been developed in this

investigation or in our knowledge while visitors of this institution, or otherwise, on which any question as to the veracity and good faith of Dr. Bar-ringer could be based.

ringer could be based.

Errors Explained.
On the subject of accuracy there appear two inaccuracies in figures used in publications issued from the institute. One was an uncflicial, unsigned editorial in the Alumni Bulletin, containing surmises as to the probable taining surmises as to the probable effect which a change in respect to entrance requirements would have upon the number of students. These figures were not compiled by Dr. Barringer, but had been prepared for him by a subordinate, and he used them without verification. This is such an error as would likely occur in any business. The other inaccuracy related to the number of active cows, as printed in an announcement of the agricultural apprentice course. This error was the result of using the text of a former catalogue, and was the result merely of inadvertence on the part of the professor to whom the duty had been delegated to prepare and print the catalogue. A correct statement had been previously published in an announcement of the farmers' winter course.

The charges under this head are spoken of as preferred charges. It is the opinion of the board that the charge was not sustained.

II. Lack of initilation, discretion and effect which a change in respect to en-II. Lack of initiation, discretion and

Under this head the president is crit-icized for lack of activity before the Legislature, first as to the Rison bill and second es to the act to provide for

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and adverse comment upon the Institute before the investigation was held. It will take time and pattence to live this down, but it is hoped and believed that the institute will emerge from the investigation stronger and more useful.

There are seven main charges, subdivided into some forty-five specifications. The language used in defining the charges is of the severest nature. Assuming that the committee believed that this language was a fair statement of the real facts, the zeal displayed by them can be understood, for then the President would cease to possess any qualifications whatsoever for the office he filis. It is manifest, however, upon reading the specifications of alleged facts upon which the

especially field for that purpose. There was no ground for complaint against Dr. Barringer in this respect, and they were not reopened. These specifications are to a large extent no more than a difference of college. than a difference of opinion of persons previously discharged. One item reads "Provident's agreement with H. S. Pey "Provident's agreement with H. S. Pey-ton." The essential features of this agreement were arranged by the for-mer president, and not by Dr. Bar-ringer. The board finds no ground for criticism under this charge. Differences of Opinion. VI. Ignorance of educational meth-cles and policies.

ods and policies.

ods and policies.

Under this head the discussion was interesting and enlightening. There was nothing, however, to justify the harsh language used in the charge. The chief thing involved was a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of certain changes which had been made in the course of study. A distinguished alumnus, one of the faculty of Yale College, held different views from the president as to the course of instruction which should be followed in this college, especially in relation to the quasi literary degree under the course of general science and the enlargement in the course of instruction in the course of i College, held different views from the president as to the course of instruction which should be followed in this college, especially in relation to the quast literary degree under the course of general science and the enlargement in the course of instruction in agriculture. Prof. Surface was carnest and eloquent in his criticism of the changes that had been made. He was unable, however, when requested to suggest what changes should be made. These changes have been made made. These changes have been made after great care and deliberation, and with the endorsement and approval of the faculty of the agricultural depart-

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

ble exaggerated into matters of vital importance, after magnified into inexcussable blunders of diministration, while diverging views as indicated in the inexcussable blunders of diministration, while diverging views as charges of ignorance of educational methods; and faction and partial sensibility of the control of th

forgotten, however, that in the publi-cation of their college paper, there are certain proprieties which must be ob-served and certain lines which cannot be passed. With these admonitions the board feels it proper to leave the matter in the hands of the proper committee on publication. Upon the whole case the board feels constrained to say that they consider these charges as ill-advised and unsur-tained. It requires no great amount

tained. It requires no great amount or investigation to discover material improvement in various lines at the V. P. I. during Dr. Barringer's administration.

ment of the real facts, the zeal displayed by them can be understood, for them the President would cease to the management of the ment of the real facts, the zeal displayed by them can be understood, for them the President would cease to and full opportunity to possess any qualifications whatsoever for the office he fils. It is manifest, the seal of the charges are based, that the language of the charges is harsh and unwarranted.

In some of them inaccuracy is apparent. In others ordinary investigation would have discovered the truth expectably held for that purposes. The board, the work of teaching agriculture as a large extent, been previously investigation would have discovered the truth. for the college are helping to take the institute out of competition with bigh schools, and have offered a class of students better qualified to get the best results from their instruction; the improvement in the conduct and moral tone of the corps is everywhere recognized; disease in the live stock has been stamped out and methods for its prevention in the future have been adopted; marked improvement in the grounds and buildings and physical plant and equipment has been made, and expenditures have, not exceeded income. These results have been accomplished in the face of almost constant criticism and opposition, which

ing more signal success, and will ac-complish increasing good to the State.



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